

SIGHTS AND SCENERY.

The Haymarket Theatre.—Comedy and farce are in full vogue here, and appear to command the success they merit. The last novelty, "The Foundling," from the pen of Mr. Buckstone, a lively and interesting piece, introducing some good acting on the part of Mr. Kenley, Mrs. Fitzwilliam, the author, &c. does not admit of much display in the way of scenery. There is a drawing-room scene which is very complete in its appointments.

The Princess's Theatre.—Many years ago, when the green curtain was an imposing mystery and the ring of the prompter's bell made our eyes open and heart beat, there was, we remember, a dramatic version of Lord Byron's alarming tale, "The Vampire," but it was not assisted either by the acting or the stage effects which are bestowed on the drama on the same subject now being acted at the Princess's. Mr. Bonvicini sustains the principal part very efficiently. The scenery entitles Mr. Gordon to very great praise. The "Village of Baby Peverly," in the first drama, and the same spot after a lapse of 200 improving years, in the third, are charmingly painted. There is a very cleverly-painted interior; "Alan Baby's Bedchamber," in the same period, which specially deserves mention. We should question, however, the propriety of the light employed in the scene in which the resurrection of the evil-disposed gentleman takes place,—"The Peaks of Snowdon,"—as somewhat marrying what would otherwise be a fine presentation of moon-struck mountain scenery. It may be a local peculiarity, but it has clearly more the effect of the sun, and that one of the hottest, than of the soft rays of the moon.

Rosherville Gardens.—Neither a finer scene nor a prettier sight can be found than these gardens just now. Accident led us there a week ago, and though at that time the constellation Aquarium, whatever astrooomers may say to the contrary, must have been in the descent, there were sufficient intervals of sun-light to judge of them. They are laid out with great taste, and the pains bestowed on their maintenance give ample returns. Nature and art are very happily joined.

FOREIGN ARTISTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Annual Meeting of German Architects and Civil Engineers.—This annual gathering, resembling those held in this country, but consisting of the profession of the whole of Germany, has been just held at Brunswick. The society visited the several churches of that ancient capital of the Guelphs, whence the members were conveyed by a gratuitous train to Wolfenbüttel to view the new town church and the library. The number of the members regularly inscribed amounts to 216, amongst whom there are 102 foreign architects and engineers; considerably more than in any previous meeting. The different branches of the Brunswick ministry, as well as the civic authorities, were fully represented in the interesting meetings of the associations, where important topics of general interest were discussed.

The Monument of Rembrandt.—The city of Amsterdam, including the population from the king downwards, has been kept in a pleasant excitement by the inauguration of the monument of the great Dutch artist. The bronze statue of Rembrandt, including the plinth, which are cast in one piece, measures 15 Amsterdam feet, and is a work of M. Boyer's. The figure expresses quiet and repose, resting on the right leg, the left stepping forth, by which an easy natural posture has been achieved. The arms are placed crossways, so that the left grasps the cloak, hanging down from the shoulder, while the right holds the crayon. The costume is in accordance with the time of Rembrandt, and the under-garment displays a full, vigorous form, hinting at the artist's sound bodily frame. The postament is rather simple, and consists of grit. On the front the name of the great artist is inscribed. On the rear we read: "Heldt van het Nieuw-schiksel! Anno, 1852." The king was present at the inauguration, when the president of the Haag Art Commission spoke to his Majesty

as follows:—"But this statue does not alone speak to us of art, which never can progress isolatedly with any nation: it speaks to us of times when our people could develop themselves widely in state and church, in science and art, although in the turmoil of strife and contention." The king on replying called forth a *Hoehe!* to the prosperity of the country. An art-festival in the park exhibited a fine display of decorations and pictured emblems and symbols.

Monument to Johannes Müller, the Historian.—This personage, who died as one of the ministers of King Jerome of Westphalia, reposed hitherto under a scanty slab of stone in the churchyard of Cassel. King Ludwig of Bavaria has now a suitable monument erected to the memory of his friend. It represents the entrance to an antique temple, where two marble statues (History and Criticism) are placed. Above is the bust of Müller, executed in life size. The inscription (in German) runs thus: "Sepulchre of J. de Müller, born at Shaffhouse in 1752, died at Cassel in 1809. What Thucydides was to Hellas, and Tacitus to Rome, this was he to his native land. This monument was erected by King Ludwig I. of Bavaria, the admirer of his historical works." The bronze stone which had hitherto marked the place has been embodied in the new structure.

Düsseldorf.—The programme of this year's spring festival of artists has been published. It comprises the combination of several old cycles of traditions into one pageant, exhibiting a variety of decorations and costume. The procession will start from the seat of the artists' locale (Malkasten) to the Grafenberg, one of the finest sights near that fair Rhine city.

MASONS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

THE increasing success of this meritorious institution was marked and stimulated by a public dinner on Thursday, the 17th, in the Freemasons' Hall. To enable the working members of the trade to participate in the festival, tickets were issued to them at five shillings each; whilst such of the patrons and supporters of the society as preferred another course were indulged with wines, &c. and a seat at the chairman's table, on the usual terms of such meetings. In the whole a body of more than 100 persons were assembled, in the utmost cordiality and good will; and we cannot doubt that as promoting a more friendly intercourse between the employers and the employed, the meeting will be the precursor of many others of a similar kind.

Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P. had engaged to take the chair, but was unfortunately prevented doing so by the fact that three important public measures (the Water Supply Bill, the Sewers Bill, and the Intermittents Bill) demanded his attendance in the House of Commons; and other members of Parliament were absent from the same cause. The chair was, however, ably filled by Mr. William Freeman, treasurer of the Society, who was supported by Mr. R. Westmacott, R.A. Mr. Behne, Mr. Soward, Mr. Russell Freeman, Mr. C. H. Smith, Messrs. Martin and Wood, Mr. Mather, Mr. M'Sweeney, Mr. Farley, and other friends of the Institution.

The loyalty of the meeting was warmly elicited by the Chairman in proposing the introductory toasts; and he then proceeded to give "Prosperity to the Masons' Provident Institution." The necessity of such an association, he observed, was obvious; and, although circumstances had deprived it for a few years past of that *clat* which many similar bodies had obtained, that was no cause for discouragement. Other institutions, which now boasted of their almshouses and lists of pensioners, and were in a flourishing condition, had been kept for a long time in a similar state of infancy and inefficiency. Without alluding further to the past, all the differences which had existed were now dissipated; and the members of the society were considerably on the increase. If they exerted themselves, they would secure even more support from their employers and others interested in their welfare than they had yet received, but his great desire was that the institution should be self-supporting. A body of men so capable as the masons of providing for the sustenance of themselves and their families, ought to be independent of every other

class in the community in the promotion of a benevolent object immediately concerning themselves. He remembered the time when he was associated with working masons, and was taught the use of the tool in the same way as it was understood by them; and he looked back to that time with peculiar satisfaction. Adverting to the anxieties and dangers to which their trade exposed them, he urged upon the members the merits of this society, and the importance of advocating them; and concluded with giving "Prosperity to the Institution."

Mr. Soward, as a friend of the chairman of fifty years' standing, and as a very old mason, representing the fifth generation of his name in the trade, acknowledged the toast on behalf of masons generally. The improved management of the institution would render it beneficial to the trade at large.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Mr. Tite, their president, had aided them in the time of need, and if he had been in England and in good health, would have presided on that occasion. They would all regret the cause of his leaving England, and rejoice to hear of the re-establishment of his health, and of his intended return by easy journeys. The tide having thus turned in his favour, there could not be a better time to express the good feeling they all entertained towards him, and their best wishes for his perfect recovery and speedy return.

In reply to the toast, "The Vice-Presidents," Mr. C. H. Smith returned thanks, and said that, feeling himself to be "thorough bred" in the trade, he always felt peculiar pleasure in attending the meetings of the society; and so far as his means went, his services in its behalf might always be relied on.

Mr. Westmacott, R.A. proposed the health of the Chairman. Lord Robert Grosvenor was a nobleman who dignified his rank by his talents, and by his readiness to aid all classes of his fellow-countrymen. He had not deserted them on this occasion without a satisfactory cause; for the supply of water was a most important measure. His lordship's absence had thrown some cold water on their chairman, but none at all upon the meeting, in consequence of the Chairman's able conduct of the proceedings. Mr. Freeman was well known and respected by them all; and for himself he had the greatest pleasure in attending such a meeting. If, as a Royal Academician and a sculptor, he was the head of the masons, he knew not where he should look for hands unkind to such a company as the present. Looking at the admirable workmanship of the ecclesiastical and other ancient edifices of England, it was a source of pride to feel that there had been great names among the British masons of the olden times. In proposing the "Army and Navy," the chairman had referred to the splendid club-houses, by erecting which these classes had benefited the masons. He (Mr. Westmacott) prayed that the army and the navy might only be called upon to give them an opportunity of erecting as many of these splendid palaces as they could find room for: he should be very glad to see swords turned into chisels. The able advocacy of the institution by the chairman deserved their gratitude. As he had said, it ought to be self-supporting, and it would then be a source of pride to every member. Every time they met to carry out the high object they had in view, they would stand a step higher in public opinion.

The Chairman, in returning his thanks, said, in the hope of meeting Lord Robert Grosvenor, he had been prepared to mention a *deux maitre* which might have interested him. His lordship had once inquired of him as to the site of Peterborough House, Millbank, in which he was born; but which, in the many changes in that neighbourhood, had been swept away. He (the Chairman) found that that house had stood on the site of the stone-yard now occupied by his friend Mr. Chadwick; and that gentleman, he was happy to add, had forwarded him five guineas as a contribution to the funds of the institution. He was gratified by the thanks of the meeting, and by the presence of the many old friends around him. In each friendship there was much to be thankful for, and the power to promote a benevolent object was one of a man's highest privileges.

A numerous list of subscriptions was then read, comprising the following amounts:—Lord Robert Grosvenor, 10*l.* 10*s.*; Mr. James Tulloch, P.R.S., 10*l.* 10*s.*; Mr. R. Westmacott, R.A. 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. Sidney Swirke, R.A. 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. Chadwick, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. J. Russell Freeman, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. Thomas Freeman, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. C. H. Smith, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. G. Myers, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. John Poole, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. Samuel Newell, 2*l.* 2*s.*; Mr. William Harrison, 2*l.* 2*s.*; Mr. Soward, 2*l.* 2*s.*; Mr. Farley, 2*l.* 2*s.*; Mr. E. Farrer, 2*l.* 2*s.*; and many others.

The health of Mr. Whitehead, the Secretary, being given, he adverted to the difficulties (almost